

THE PLYMOUTH BANNER.

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER, LONG MAY IT WAVE, O'er THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE."

A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Education, Morals, Science, Agriculture, Commerce, Politics, Markets, General Intelligence, Foreign and Domestic News.

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WAR—ITS EVILS—REMEDY.

The untold evils of war are very strikingly set forth in the following extract, which we copy from a Report on Stipulated Arbitration on difficulties between nations, made to the Senate of the U. S., Feb. 23, 1853, by Hon. J. R. Underwood.

"That war is an evil of stupendous magnitude in its effects upon the physical welfare of mankind, no one can deny who regards and reasons upon incontrovertible facts. The business of war is to force and secure submission on the part of the enemy, by inflicting a destruction of life and property. The purpose of a campaign is to conquer—to subdue the enemy. The means to accomplish it are found in the sacrifice of life in bloody battle, in the sacking of cities, in the devastation of countries, in the sinking of ships, in the seizure and confiscation of cargoes, and in forcing contributions from those who are over-run. The immediate object of war is to create human misery to such a degree, that those who suffer will thereby be influenced to yield to the demands, whether right or wrong, of those who inflict the injury, rather than prolong their sufferings by a continuance of the war."

Under such a system, fathers, husbands, sons and brothers are consigned, in the vigor of manhood, to sudden death, and their bodies often abandoned without burial, leaving mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters to lament, with excruciating anguish the loss of that society which constituted their chief earthly happiness. But, even if they survive the battle, it may be at the expense of an eye, an arm, or a leg; and, when they retire from the army, if their bodies are not maimed and mutilated, their physical constitutions are often broken down, and they fall early victims to disease contracted in the service. It is needless to comment upon the distress and wretchedness which families experience when deprived of those who supplied the wants of women and children with food and raiment. Every person can call to mind some known and familiar instance of a family whose comfort and happiness have been destroyed by the consequences of war. Individual and family sufferings are the confluent particles which form the great streams of national calamity; and the committee, without dwelling upon them, will proceed to present some general considerations and facts, which they trust will exhibit the evils of war in a light so striking as to induce every patriot and philanthropist to labor for its extermination.

"Armies, to render efficient service, must be composed of intelligent, able-bodied men—such as are capable in civil employments, to increase greatly the products of agriculture, mechanism and commerce, upon which the physical comforts of every people essentially depend. Abstract the labor of 100,000 men from the tillage of the earth, from the mechanic and the manufacturing arts, and from the business of commerce—convert them into soldiers, and what consequences naturally follow this procedure?"

"The first is, that they become consumers instead of producers—maintained, not by their own but by the labor of others. However actively and industriously they may be engaged to meet and overcome the enemy, all their labors for such purposes, instead of adding to, only consume and waste the food and raiment and implements furnished by the labor of others. The consequence is, that the laboring producers must work harder to keep up their own customary supplies, and to support, in addition, the army of consumers and non-producers, whose business it is to live on the labor of their friends, and to destroy the lives and property of their enemies."

"The second consequence is, that the 100,000 men taken from the industrial pursuits which create the means of comfortable living, and placed in an army to lead the life of soldiers, must be furnished with the implements and munitions which belong to their new trade of de-

struction. Swords, pistols, rifles, muskets, bayonets, cannon, powder, balls, and bombshells must be fabricated and supplied. In addition, there must be the means of transportation by land and water. Beasts of burden and wagons of all sorts, and without number, must be provided. Water craft of all kinds and dimensions, from the common ferry-boat to the magnificent three-decked man-of-war ship, must be constructed or purchased. When a suitable armament is obtained, and military and naval operations begin, every movement is attended with deterioration and waste of material, making a perpetual renewal absolutely necessary. The forage horses, mules and oxen, and the destruction and loss of animals and carriages attached to armies, constitute no inconsiderable item to be kept up by the labor of the country which furnishes the supplies."

"The third consequence is, that if the laboring classes, upon whom the burden falls of supporting the non-producing army in food and raiment, and of providing the munitions of war to render the army efficient, cannot do it for want of means, and the government under which they live cannot therefore venture to increase the taxes, the people and their government are driven by the urgency of circumstances to anticipate their revenues by borrowing money. Hence the creation of national debts, and with them a new set of non-producers who live sumptuously upon the interest of their money, and by dealing in stocks. Thus the living generation are often required to toil and labor to discharge the principal and interest of national debts created in former ages. Besides the current and necessary annual expenditures of government, they are called on to pay the debts of centuries, and taxation becomes an intolerable burden."

"That these are the natural consequences of war, no one can doubt who is at all acquainted with the history of nations, and their public debts. Exempt as are the people of the United States from oppressive taxation to meet the interest of their public debt, and small as that debt is compared with the debts of other nations whose resources are not equal to ours, yet it is well known that nearly the whole of our debt, exceeding on the 1st of January last, \$35,000,000, has been the result of war. . . . It may be safely affirmed that the total public debt of the States of Europe was not less than eight thousand millions of dollars in 1810. The annual interest on this enormous amount of debt, supposing it to average only four per cent per annum, is equal to three hundred and twenty millions of dollars each year. In other words, each man, woman and child, if the interest were raised by a capitation tax, would have to contribute \$1.29 per annum, in addition to the sums necessary to meet the annual expenditures of government for other purposes, estimating the countries which owe the debts to contain a population of 248,000,000. Turkey in Europe has been omitted in these calculations, because the committee had no data before them upon which that country could be included."

"If we consider, by way of contrast, the more beneficial uses to which war-taxes and war-debts might be applied, could wars be avoided, we shall see more clearly the immense losses and deprivations which mankind have sustained in consequence of devoting their energies and resources to the purpose of war. . . . Thus the interest on the European debt would pay an annual salary of \$400 to eight hundred thousand teachers of children. These teachers, allowing thirty children to each, could instruct twenty-four millions of children, of suitable ages, the usual branches of a common education—as reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and grammar. Thus the debts of the States of Europe, created by wars, would, as an education fund, teach every child of suitable age within their territories those rudiments of learning which open the door to the highest attainments in science. What blessings would this confer upon the children of the lower classes of Paris and of London; and not only these, but upon the children of all the poor, whose circumstances prohibit the expenditure of money, even if they had it, in educating their children."

"The interest for one year on European war-debts would construct eight thousand miles of railroad, and provide depots, locomotives, cars, and everything needful for the transportation of freight and travelers, at a cost per mile not exceeding \$40,000. Thus a railroad might be constructed from Paris to Canton, in China, for less than a year's interest on the war-debts of Europe."

"The interest payable annually upon war-debts, is but a small portion of the annual burden imposed upon the people for war purposes. The expense of keeping and sustaining large standing armies and navies is tenfold greater than paying the interest on national debts. And, although the nations of Europe have been at peace for many years, from recent information it appears that there has been no diminution of their military estab-

lishments. The following extract, taken from a recent publication in London, and which refers to parliamentary papers and the budgets for the years 1853 and 1852, in support of the truth of the statements, exhibits the condition of things on this point in regard to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The publication states: "While the (United Kingdom) national debt has not been materially diminished, its war establishment has been fearfully increased. In the space of seventeen years—namely, from 1835 to 1852—its armed men have multiplied from 145,816 in the one period, to 272,431 in the other, being an addition, in those comparatively few years, of no less than 126,635 men in arms." The publication proceeds to state, that an additional force of 80,000 men had recently been provided for "in the form of a militia, at a cost of £360,000 (\$1,750,000) to the country; and more recently still, they (the ministry) have demanded and obtained for an increased navy, another sum of £600,000, (\$3,000,000) making together nearly one million sterling taken from the income of the empire in 1852, in addition to the large annual expenditure for similar purposes." The same publication states, that in 1835 the whole cost of the army, navy and ordnance of Great Britain was £11,657,457 sterling, (\$58,257,455) in 1852, the charge for the same department (including the Caffre war, &c.) has risen to the startling sum of £16,500,000, (\$82,500,000) being an increase of no less than \$4,842,543 sterling; and this does not include the £600,000 recently added to the navy." We shall conclude these extracts by giving the commentary of the writer on the preceding facts. He says: "The injury which this immense drain on our national resources must inflict upon commerce, is incalculable. Take Manchester and Salford as an instance; their united population of about 400,000 inhabitants, according to the existing average of taxation, pay annually, for past, present and future wars, no less than the astonishing sum of £875,000, (\$4,375,000, or \$10 per head) and at this rate such a population, during the last thirty years of peace, will have lost from their United resources, for war purposes alone, the almost overwhelming sum of not less than twenty-five millions sterling! What the inhabitants of these two great boroughs could have accomplished with this vast amount, denies all description; but it is undeniable that solid improvements, and on a scale of the most commanding magnitude, in all the social, sanitary and intellectual departments of activity, might have been carried out to their full completion by those resources which, through a system of warlike extravagance, are now forever lost. The inhabitants of the United Kingdom at large will have contributed to this extravagant outlay, during the thirty years of peace, the perfectly bewildering amount of more than one thousand two hundred and fifty millions! (\$6,250,000,000.)"

"Nor does the agricultural market suffer less, in proportion, than the manufacturing, of which the following statement is a convincing and melancholy proof.—Its 600,000 laborers, who, with their families, amount to nearly two millions and a half of the entire population, will not receive as wages, for their whole year's toil, more than fifteen millions sterling, (\$75,000,000); while, for armed men alone, the country will pay, as stated above, upwards of sixteen millions, \$80,000,000, for the same space of time. Thus the tillers of the soil, whose hard and honest labor provides the substance of our daily bread, will receive for that labor millions less than men in arms, who of necessity, must be mere idlers in the State, except when engaged in the work of mutual destruction."

"It might seem useless further to pursue these investigations in reference to the States of Europe. But it is deemed proper to make a brief reference to the state of things now, or very recently, existing in France, taken from a translation of an article published in the *Siecle*.—From this it appears that in France and Algeria there are kept up 102 regiments of infantry, ten battalions of foot chasseurs, three regiments of zouaves, three battalions of African light infantry, and nineteen companies of discipline. These corps contain 261,095 officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, at an expense of pay and living alone of 78,000,000 francs, equal to \$14,250,000. The article proceeds to say: "Our fifty-eight regiments of cavalry, two squadrons of guides, and four companies of the body called *Cavaliers de Remonte*, contain 61,187 men and 44,707 horses at an expense of 57,000,000 francs, equal to \$10,500,000. The artillery—which is divided into fourteen regiments, a regiment of pontonniers, four squadrons of park artillery, and thirteen companies of workmen—consists of 32,000 men and 748 horses, and the wagon-train of 5,000 men and 4,425 horses. The gendarmerie and veterans form a chapter of the budget quite apart."

"The number of the gendarmerie and veterans is not stated, nor the annual sum required for their support. Neither is the annual cost of the artillery, engineers and wagon-train given. But, supposing that it is equal, in proportion to that of the cavalry, it is not less than 33,683,000 francs, or \$6,399,770. Thus the army of France, exclusive of the gendarmerie and veterans, composed of 368,572 men and 61,018 horses, costs annually, to pay and support them, more than \$30,000,000 in peace. This estimate does not include the navy of France."

"According to the foregoing data, the standing armies of Great Britain and France exceed 610,000 men. Including the armies of all other European States, the number cannot fall short of 2,000,000 men, without taking any account of the naval armaments and number of marines, sailors and officers. [In 1850, Baron Von Roden, a very able statistician in Germany, stated that there were at that time full four millions actually under arms in Europe.—Ed.] Your committee have seen a publication in which it is estimated, that the annual charge upon the people of Europe to maintain their military establishment, is not less than \$500,000,000, and to pay the interest on their national debts not less than \$300,000,000. In the opinion of the committee these estimates are fully sustained by the data they have examined. The thought is appalling, that the laboring and productive classes of Europe should be annually taxed to the extent of \$800,000,000 to pay interest on war debts, and to support millions of men, withdrawn from the arts of agriculture, commerce, and mechanism, in idleness during peace, and to prepare them to destroy each other in times of war!"

"We will close these investigations by remarking, that our own public debt, nearly all of which is the consequence of war, and the expenses of our army and navy a single year—the army having cost \$8,689,530, and the navy, including dry docks and ocean steam mail contracts, \$7,450,300, during the fiscal year ending in June 1853, according to official reports—would build a railroad, at \$35,000 per mile, from the Mississippi river to San Francisco, in California. A single year's interest at six per cent, on the amount of our national debt, and the amount expended for military and naval purposes during the last fiscal year, would pay a salary exceeding \$200 to one hundred school teachers in every congressional district in the U. States. We shall only allude to the system of pensions, and the burdens entailed on nations to support pensioners. For the next fiscal year, to meet these claims, more than \$2,000,000, according to the Secretary's report, will be wanting. All this is the consequence of war."

"The facts and considerations already presented are enough to show what mankind have lost by applying their labor and money in scouring nations with the calamities of war. Had the labor and money, thus thrown away in making nations miserable, been applied in constructing roads and canals and telegraphs, in supplying towns and cities with pure water and other improvements, in building churches and schoolhouses, in procuring books and other apparatus, and in paying teachers to instruct children, instead of paying soldiers to butcher their fellow-men in cold blood without knowing whom they are killing; if this wasted labor and money had been used with a view to the physical, intellectual and moral advancement of mankind, the imagination cannot grasp the incalculable blessings which would have been the result."

"We shall not dwell upon the deleterious effects of war upon the moral and intellectual progress of mankind. To trace its consequences, and to show that no people can advance, when maddened and harassed by the intense excitements and engagements which occupy them in a state of war, as they could in peace, would be to waste time in proving a self-evident position."

"What is the remedy?" "Arbitration," is the answer given in the Report, and readily endorsed by the peace men of the day. But their remedy will not remove the evil; for nations that will make preparations for war on a mammoth scale, as they do in these last days, have too much of the disposition to fight in them to be restrained from it, by the most wise arbitrators. And besides, God has decreed that they shall fight, or take the cup of war and drink it to the very dregs. Instead of beating their instruments of war into implements of husbandry, they are called upon to do the reverse, to wake up their mighty men, &c., to come down to the valley of slaughter, to receive their fearful doom. Joel iii. 9-16.

"What is the remedy?" The conversion of the world from the principles of war to the principles of peace, respond the pulpit and the press of the Protestant world; but their precepts and examples do not agree, for while they proclaim against war, they are in practice its supporters; hence, their professions are hypocritical and their hopes vain."

"What is the remedy?" Let the unerring word of the Lord answer. "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah iv. 3. Here is the predicted and only remedy for the terrible evil of war. The Lord, the King of kings, must come, set up his kingdom and stretch out his scepter of righteousness over the world, before wars will cease. And not then, even, until he shall "rebuke strong nations," and destroy the present despotic and anti-Christian powers of earth."

"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

"Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling."

"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. Ps. ii. 9-12."

In view of the terrible evils of war, as set forth in this Report, and of the inconceivable blessings that will be realized under the peaceful reign of Christ, the ardent prayer of every child of God, is, "Thy kingdom come."

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.
A severe snow storm, accompanied by lightning, occurred in a part of Maine on the 13th ultimo. A correspondent of the Gardiner (Me.) Fountain, writing from Bass Harbor, Mt. Desert, describes the storm, as it appeared there, as awful and sublime. A thunder cloud passed over the place, which, for terrific appearance, exceeded anything ever witnessed there. The correspondent adds: "The lightning was of a purple color, and sometimes appeared like balls of fire, coming in through windows and doors, and down the chimneys, while the houses trembled and shook to their very foundations."

Mrs. E. Holden was near a window, winding up a clock; a ball of fire came in through the window, and struck her hand, which benumbed her hand and arm. She then, with all in the house, retreated into the entry. Another flash succeeded, and in the room from which they had retired, resembling a volume of fire, whirling round and producing a crackling noise. A similar appearance of fire was seen, and crackling noises were heard in a large number of the houses. Some who heard the noise, say that it sounded like breaking glass."

Captain Maurice Rich had his light extinguished, and his wife was injured.—He got his wife on to a bed and found a match; at that instant another flash came and ignited the match, and threw him several feet backwards. John L. Martin received so severe a shock that he could not speak for a long time.

A great many persons were slightly injured. Some were struck in the feet, some in the eye; while others were electrized, some powerfully and some slightly. But what was very singular, not a person was killed or seriously injured, or a building damaged, but a cluster of trees, within a few rods of two dwelling houses was not thus fortunate. The electric fluid came down among them—taking them out by the roots, with stones and earth, and throwing all in every direction.—Some were left hanging by their roots from the tops of the adjacent standing trees, roots up, tops down.

The lightning, after entering the earth to the depth of several feet, and for a space some eight or ten feet in diameter, divided into four different directions.—One course which it took led through the open land, making a chasm to the depth of several feet, and continued its march unobstructed by the solid frozen ground, or any other substance, to the distance of three hundred and seventy feet; lifting, overturning, and throwing out junks of frozen earth, some of which were ten or eleven feet long by four feet wide, and hurling at a distance rocks, stones, and roots. The power here displayed was truly awful, and had it fallen on a building, it would have thrown it, with its inmates, into ten thousand fragments.

I understand that in Southwest Harbor and Northeast Harbor (in this island) several vessels had their mast rent in pieces; one had some plank torn from her, and one man was knocked down, but not killed.

HORRIBLE MURDER.—We learn from the Southern (Ky.) Argus that a short time since one George Morrow, residing in Hickman Co., while under the influence of liquor, ordered his son Harry, a youth near 17 years of age, to leave his house; and, the son not going out immediately, he seized his gun, pushed his son out of the door, and immediately fired at him, the whole contents entering his forehead, taking off the entire part and scattering his brains in a most distressing manner. The father was arrested and committed to jail to await his trial. He is represented as an habitual drunkard.

A Crazy Prisoner—A Strong Game.
About three weeks ago, a convict in the penitentiary, named Skeggs, sent from Evansville, we believe, gave indications of having lost his mind. He would moan about the cell house, and when ordered to go to work, he would give a vacant stare, and pretend not to understand what was said to him. His uncle visited him a few days since, and the Governor being in Jeffersonville at the time, requested his pardon, as he said he thought a visit to his home might restore him. The Governor however, declined but said he would, on his return from Iowa, have him taken to the asylum, and if he did not give indications of improvement in two weeks, he would then pardon him. On Monday last, some of the officers of the prison believing that Skeggs' craziness was all sham tied him up and told him he would either have to go to work or take a hundred lashes. Eighteen lashes were administered, when the convict cried out that he was willing to go to work. He was then taken down and has been sane ever since. He was sentenced for fifteen years, and said he had been put up to the trick by some of his fellow prisoners.

New Albany Ledger.
An old lady who once lived in the country had a habit of always saying, when any misfortune occurred, "I know'd it." Her husband one day came in, appearing to be in trouble, and said, "The boys forgot the iron wedge in the field, and it is melted with the sun." "I know'd it," said the old woman.

A modest young lady on being asked by a gentleman why she had a covering over her "dressing bureau," replied: "I don't want to see its drawers."

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RETURNS.—The Washington Union furnishes a total of the returns of the last Presidential election, which foots up as follows:

For Pierce,	1,385,545
Scott,	1,383,573
Hale,	157,296
Total vote,	3,126,414

These figures do not embrace the full vote of the country. The actual returns show the following result:

For Pierce, dem.	1,607,723
Scott, whig,	1,356,934
Webster, Union whig,	7,436
Hale, free soil abolition,	155,940
Gould, abolition,	72
Troup, State rights,	2,300
Broome, native,	2,475

Total vote, 3,162,890
The vote polled in November last, although not full in several States, was the largest ever thrown. It exhibits an increase of 290,894 over that of the previous Presidential election, 1848.

Det. Free Press.

On the 31st ult., Mr. John Helper, residing near Monroe, Wisconsin, while plowing in his field, seeing a heavy cloud rising which indicated a shower, unhitched his team, and in company with his son, each of whom had a span of horses, set out for his house. They had not proceeded far when a tremendous explosion fell upon them, killing the father instantly, and both spans of horses, together with a loose one which was following the others. The son was stunned by the shock, and lay senseless some time, but is now nearly recovered. The most singular circumstance in this causality is that the horse upon which the son was riding was killed, while the boy, though a higher object, survived the terrible thunderbolt.

LOST.—A small lady's watch with a white face, also two ivory young ladies' work boxes. A mahogany gentleman's dressing case, and a small pony, belonging to a young lady with a silver mane and tail.

HORRIBLE.—A horrible scene was presented at the Tombs, New York, on Monday morning. One of the keepers of the prison having, about six o'clock opened a cell in which were incarcerated five men for being intoxicated on Sunday, he found three of them dead and a fourth writhing in fits. He promptly gave the alarm, and a physician was sent for, who examined the men and pronounced them dead. The fourth man was very weak and not expected to live.

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS.—The Savannah Courier, of the 19th says:—"A case was tried during the recent session of the United States court in this city, which ought to be generally understood both by the people and the officials who have the charge of the various post offices throughout the country. The postmaster at Sylvania, in Scriven county, was arraigned and fined fifty dollars for delaying a letter in his office."

The law makes it the imperative duty of every postmaster to forward all mail matter deposited one half hour before the departure of the mail, unless a longer time should be granted by the Postmaster General, on account of the business in his office."